

Appl. No. 10/774128

In the Claims:

1-25. (Cancelled.)

1                   26. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 25,~~  
2                   ~~further comprising A welding, cutting or heating system~~  
3                   ~~capable of receiving a range of input voltages spanning at~~  
4                   ~~least two input utility voltages, comprising:~~

5                   ~~an input circuit configured to receive any input~~  
6                   ~~voltage within the range of input voltages, and configured~~  
7                   ~~to provide a first dc signal;~~

8                   ~~a converter configured to receive the first dc~~  
9                   ~~signal and to provide a converter output, and configured to~~  
10                   ~~receive at least one control input;~~

11                   ~~an output circuit configured to receive the~~  
12                   ~~converter output and to provide a welding, heating or~~  
13                   ~~cutting signal;~~

14                   ~~a controller, including a power factor correction~~  
15                   ~~circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal~~  
16                   ~~to the converter; and~~

17                   ~~an auxiliary power source configured to receive~~  
18                   ~~the any input voltage within the range of input voltages and~~  
19                   ~~configured to provide a control power signal to the~~  
20                   ~~controller.~~

1                   27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26,  
2                   wherein the auxiliary power source is capable of providing the  
3                   control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage,  
4                   regardless of the magnitude of the any input voltage.

1                   28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27,  
2                   wherein the output circuit further comprises a pulsed  
3                   transformer.

Appl. No. 10/774128

1           29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28,  
2 wherein the convertor includes a boost circuit.

1           30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29,  
2 wherein the output circuit includes a pulse width modulator  
3 connected to the transformer.

31. (Cancelled)

1           32. (Previously presented) A method of  
2 providing welding, cutting or heating current from a range  
3 of input voltages spanning at least two input utility  
4 voltages, comprising:

5           receiving an input voltage from within the range  
6 and converting it to a first dc bus having a voltage  
7 magnitude higher than the input voltage;

8           controlling the converting, including power factor  
9 correcting by controlling a switch; and

10           receiving the dc bus and providing in response  
11 thereto an output current having an output magnitude  
12 suitable for a welding, heating or cutting.

1           33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32,  
2 wherein converting includes rectifying.

1           34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32,  
2 further comprising deriving auxiliary power from the input  
3 voltage within the range of input voltages and providing the  
4 derived auxiliary power as a power signal to a controller.

1           35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34,  
2 wherein providing the derived auxiliary power includes providing

Appl. No. 10/774128

3 the derived auxiliary power at a preselected control signal  
4 voltage, regardless of the magnitude of the input voltage.

1 36. (Previously presented) The method system of  
2 claim 34, wherein providing in response thereto includes pulsing  
3 a transformer.

1 37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein converting includes boost converting.

1 38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37,  
2 wherein providing in response thereto further comprises pulse  
3 width modulating the transformer.

39. (Cancelled)

1 40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38  
2 wherein providing in response thereto further comprises  
3 rectifying the output of the transformer.

41. (Cancelled.)

1 42. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 41,~~  
2 ~~further comprising A welding, cutting or heating system~~  
3 ~~capable of receiving a range of input voltages spanning at~~  
4 ~~least two input utility voltages, comprising:~~

5 input means for receiving any input voltage within  
6 the range of input voltages, and for providing a first dc  
7 signal;

8 converter means for receiving the first dc signal  
9 and providing a converter output in response to at least one  
10 control input;

Appl. No. 10/774128

11                   output means for receiving the converter output  
12                   and providing a welding, heating or cutting signal;  
13                   control means for controlling, including power  
14                   factor correcting, the converter means, connected to the  
15                   converter means; and  
16                   auxiliary power means for providing a control  
17                   power signal to the control means in response to receiving  
18                   the any input voltage within the range of input voltages.

1                   43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 42  
2                   wherein the auxiliary power means is further for providing the  
3                   control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage  
4                   regardless of the magnitude of the any input voltage.

1                   44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 ~~44~~,  
2                   wherein the output means further comprises means for pulsing a  
3                   transformer.

1                   45. (Previously presented) The system of claim 44,  
2                   wherein the convertor means includes means for boosting a  
3                   voltage.

1                   46. (Previously presented) The system of claim 44,  
2                   wherein the output means further includes means for pulse width  
3                   modulating the transformer.

47-48. (Cancelled)

1                   49. (Currently Amended) The power source of claim 50  
2                   48, wherein the means for receiving and converting includes means  
3                   for rectifying.

Appl. No. 10/774128

1                   50. (Currently Amended) ~~The power source of claim~~  
2 ~~48, further comprising A power source for welding, cutting~~  
3 ~~or heating current, comprising:~~

4                   means for receiving and converting an input  
5 voltage from a range of input voltages spanning at least two  
6 input utility voltages to a first dc bus having a voltage  
7 magnitude higher than the input voltage;

8                   means for controlling the means for receiving and  
9 converting, including means for power factor correcting by  
10 controlling a switch, connected to the means for receiving  
11 and converting;

12                   means for receiving the dc bus and providing in  
13 response thereto an output current having an output  
14 magnitude suitable for a welding, heating or cutting; and

15                   means for deriving auxiliary power from the input  
16 voltage and providing the derived power as a power signal to  
17 the means for controlling.

1                   51. (Previously presented) The power source of  
2 claim 50, wherein the means for deriving auxiliary power includes  
3 means for providing the derived auxiliary power at a preselected  
4 control signal voltage, regardless of the magnitude of the input  
5 voltage.

1                   52. (Previously presented) The power source of  
2 claim 51, wherein the means for receiving and converting includes  
3 means for boost converting to provide the first dc bus.

53-54. (Cancelled)

1                   55. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 54,~~  
2 ~~further comprising A welding, cutting or heating system~~

Appl. No. 10/774128

3       capable of receiving a range of input voltages spanning at  
4       least two input utility voltages, comprising:

5           a power circuit comprising an input circuit, a  
6       converter and an output circuit, wherein the power circuit  
7       is capable of providing a welding cutting or heating output  
8       without reconfiguring the power circuit;

9           wherein the input circuit is configured to receive  
10       any input voltage within the range of input voltages, and  
11       configured to provide a first dc signal;

12           wherein the converter includes a boost circuit and  
13       is configured to receive and boost the first dc signal and  
14       to provide a converter output, and configured to receive at  
15       least one control input;

16           wherein the output circuit is configured to  
17       receive the converter output and to provide the welding,  
18       heating or cutting signal;

19           a controller, including a power factor correction  
20       circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
21       to the converter; and

22           an auxiliary power circuit configured to receive  
23       the any voltage within the range of input voltages and  
24       configured to provide a control power signal to the  
25       controller.

1       56. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 55 54,  
2       wherein the output circuit further comprises a pulsed  
3       transformer.

1       57. (Previously presented) The system of claim 56,  
2       wherein the output circuit includes a pulse width modulator  
3       connected to the transformer.

Appl. No. 10/774128

1               58. (Previously presented) A method of  
2       providing welding, cutting or heating current from a range  
3       of input voltages spanning at least two input utility  
4       voltages, comprising:

5               receiving an input voltage and converting it to a  
6       first dc bus having a voltage magnitude higher than the  
7       input voltage, without reconfiguring a power circuit;

8               controlling the converting, including power factor  
9       correcting by controlling a switch; and

10              receiving the first dc bus and providing in  
11       response thereto an output current having an output  
12       magnitude suitable for a welding, heating or cutting.

1               59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58,  
2       wherein converting includes rectifying.

1               60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59,  
2       further comprising deriving auxiliary power from the input  
3       voltage and providing the derived power as a power signal to a  
4       controller.

1               61. (Previously presented) The method system of  
2       claim 60, wherein providing in response thereto includes pulsing  
3       a transformer.

62. (Cancelled.)

1               63. (Currently Amended) A welding, cutting or  
2       heating system capable of receiving a range of input  
3       voltages spanning at least two input utility voltages,  
4       comprising:

Appl. No. 10/774128

5                   input means for receiving any input voltage within  
6                   the range of input voltages, and for providing a first dc  
7                   signal;

8                   converter means for receiving and boosting the  
9                   first dc signal and providing a converter output in response  
10                  to at least one control input without reconfiguring a power  
11                  circuit;

12                  output means for receiving the converter output  
13                  and providing a welding, heating or cutting signal; and

14                  control means for controlling, including power  
15                  factor correcting, the converter means, connected to the  
16                  converter means; and

17                  auxiliary power means for providing a control  
18                  power signal to the control means in response to receiving  
19                  the any voltage within the range of input voltages.

64. (Cancelled.)

1                  65. (Previously presented) The system of claim 63,  
2                  wherein the output means further comprises means for pulsing a  
3                  transformer that receives the converter output.

66. (Cancelled.)

1                  67. (Previously presented) A welding, cutting  
2                  or heating system capable, comprising:

3                  a power circuit comprising an input circuit, a  
4                  converter and an output circuit, wherein the power circuit  
5                  is capable of providing a welding cutting or heating output;

6                  wherein the input circuit is configured to receive  
7                  at least one input voltage, and provide a converter input  
8                  signal to the converter;

Appl. No. 10/774128

9                   wherein the converter includes a boost circuit and  
10                  is configured to receive and boost the converter input  
11                  signal and to provide a dc bus output, and configured to  
12                  receive at least one control input;

13                   wherein the output circuit is configured to  
14                  receive the dc bus, and to provide the welding, heating or  
15                  cutting signal;

16                   a controller, including a power factor correction  
17                  circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
18                  to the converter; and

19                   an auxiliary power circuit configured to receive  
20                  any voltage within a range of input voltages spanning at  
21                  least two utility voltages, and configured to provide a  
22                  control power signal to the controller.

1                   68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 67,  
2                  wherein the output circuit further comprises a pulsed  
3                  transformer.

1                   69. (Previously Presented) A method of  
2                  providing welding, cutting or heating current comprising:

3                   receiving an input voltage and converting it to a  
4                  first dc bus having a voltage magnitude higher than the  
5                  input voltage;

6                   controlling the converting, including power factor  
7                  correcting by controlling a switch;

8                   receiving the first dc bus and providing in  
9                  response thereto an output current having an output  
10                 magnitude suitable for welding, heating or cutting; and

11                   deriving auxiliary power from any voltage within a  
12                  range of input voltages spanning at least two utility  
13                  voltages, and providing the derived power as a power signal  
14                  to a controller.

Appl. No. 10/774128

1           70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69,  
2 wherein converting includes rectifying.

71. (Cancelled.)

1           72. (Previously presented) A welding, cutting  
2 or heating system, comprising:

3           input means for receiving any input voltage within  
4 a range of input voltages spanning at least two utility  
5 voltages, and for providing a first dc signal;

6           converter means for receiving and boosting the  
7 first dc signal and providing a converter output in response  
8 to at least one control input;

9           output means for receiving the converter output  
10 and providing a welding, heating or cutting signal;

11           control means for controlling, including power  
12 factor correcting, the converter means, connected to the  
13 converter means; and

14           auxiliary power means for providing a control  
15 power signal to the controller in response to receiving the  
16 any voltage

73. (Cancelled.)

1           74. (Previously presented) A welding, cutting  
2 or heating power source capable of receiving a range of  
3 input voltages, comprising:

4           an input rectifier configured to receive an ac  
5 input, wherein the range includes a highest magnitude and a  
6 lowest magnitude, and wherein the highest magnitude is at  
7 least twice the lowest magnitude, and wherein the rectifier  
8 is configured to provide a first dc signal;

Appl. No. 10/774128

9                   a boost converter connected to receive the first  
10                dc signal and provide a second dc output across a dc bus  
11                comprising a positive bus and a negative bus, wherein the  
12                boost converter is configured to receive at least one  
13                control input, and wherein the boost converter includes a  
14                boost inductor having a first end in electrical  
15                communication with the rectifier, and the boost inductor has  
16                a second end in electrical communication with a switch,  
17                wherein when the switch is closed the second end is in  
18                electrical communication with negative bus, and wherein the  
19                second end is in electrical communication with a diode, and  
20                the diode is further in electrical communication with the  
21                positive bus, such that current can flow from the second end  
22                through the diode to the positive bus;

23                   a pulse width modulator connected to receive the  
24                dc bus and provide a pulsed signal;

25                   an output transformer, having a primary connected  
26                to receive the pulsed signal and to provide an output signal  
27                having a current suitable for welding or cutting on a  
28                secondary;

29                   a controller, including a power factor correction  
30                circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
31                to the converter; and

32                   an auxiliary power source capable of providing a  
33                control power signal at a preselected control signal  
34                voltage, for a plurality of input voltages.

1                   75. (Previously Presented) A method of  
2                providing welding, cutting or heating power from a range of  
3                input voltages, comprising:

4                   rectifying an ac input, wherein the range includes  
5                a highest magnitude and a lowest magnitude, and wherein the  
6                highest magnitude is at least twice the lowest magnitude,

Appl. No. 10/774128

7 and wherein the rectifier is configured to provide a first  
8 dc signal;

9 boost converting the first dc signal to a second  
10 dc output across a dc bus comprising a negative and positive  
11 bus, including receiving at least one control input, and  
12 boosting through a boost inductor having a first end in  
13 electrical communication with a rectifier, and a second end in  
14 electrical communication with a switch, wherein when the  
15 switch is closed the second end is in electrical  
16 communication with negative bus, and wherein the second end  
17 is in electrical communication with a diode, and the diode  
18 is further in electrical communication with the positive  
19 bus, such that current can flow from the second end through  
20 the diode to the positive bus;

21 pulse width modulating the dc bus to provide a  
22 pulsed signal;

23 transforming the pulsed signal to provide an  
24 output signal having a current suitable for welding or  
25 cutting;

26 controlling the boost converting to power factor  
27 correct; and

28 providing auxiliary power at a control power  
29 signal at a preselected control signal voltage, for a  
30 plurality of input voltages.

76-95. (Cancelled.)

1 96. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim~~  
2 ~~95, further including A welding or cutting power source,~~  
3 ~~comprising:~~

4 ~~an input circuit configured to receive an input having~~  
5 ~~a magnitude over a range of inputs, wherein the range~~

Appl. No. 10/774128

6        includes a highest magnitude at least twice a lowest  
7        magnitude, and to provide a first dc signal;  
8        a boost converter, including a boost inductor connected  
9        to receive the first dc signal, wherein the boost converter  
10      has a dc bus output;  
11      an output circuit configured to receive the dc bus  
12      output and to provide a welding or cutting signal;  
13      a controller, including a power factor correction  
14      circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
15      to the boost converter; and  
16      an auxiliary power source capable of providing a  
17      control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage  
18      for a plurality of magnitudes of the input signal.

1            97. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim  
2        96, wherein the auxiliary power source includes an auxiliary  
3        transformer with a plurality of primary taps.

1            98. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 96 95,  
2        wherein the output circuit includes a switched circuit connected  
3        across the dc bus, and a transformer having a primary connected  
4        in the switched circuit.

1            99. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim  
2        98, wherein the switched circuit is a pulse width modulator.

1            100. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim  
2        98, wherein the output circuit includes an output rectifier  
3        connected to a secondary of the transformer.

1            101. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim  
2        100, wherein the switched circuit includes an inverter.

Appl. No. 10/774128

1           102. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim  
2   100 wherein the output circuit includes an inductor connected to  
3   the output rectifier.

1           103. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 95 96  
2   wherein the output circuit includes a cycloconverter.

1           104. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 103,  
2   further comprising a first output stud connected to the an  
3   inductor that is part of the cycloconverter, and disposed to be  
4   connected to one of a torch and a ground clamp, and a second  
5   output stud, disposed to be connected to the other of the torch  
6   and a ground clamp.